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ENGLISH

FIFTH COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st TO 68th MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, New York,
from 9 September 1998 to 22 July 1999

Corrigendum

This corrigendum contains delegation and Secretariat corrections to the summary records of the meetings held by the Fifth Committee during the fifty-third session (A/C.5/53/SR.1-44, 45 and Add.1, 46-68).

With the issuance of this corrigendum, the records of the above-mentioned meetings are to be considered final.

15th meeting

Page 3, paragraph 18, line 6

For Committee on Conferences *read* Committee on Contributions

43rd meeting

Paragraph 9

For the existing text, substitute:

9. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that during the informal consultations, his delegation had submitted a proposal that the Procurement Manual be translated into the six official languages so that all Member States could benefit - on a larger scale - from procurement by the Organization but the proposal had not been approved. He added that his delegation would resubmit the proposal during discussion of the item on procurement.

54th meeting

Paragraph 34

For the existing text, substitute:

34. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he would like to start with a request that the Arabic for "Office of Internal Oversight Services" be changed to convey the idea of oversight. Before draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.45 was adopted, he wished to comment on section IX, paragraph 4, concerning the composition of the

Secretariat. The Secretariat practice, in use since 1959, of referring to the Middle East as a geographical group was incorrect. The invitation to consider adjustments to the groupings of Member States extended to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/53/375) had been opportune. It was time for the United Nations to abolish "the Middle East" as a designation, which was a political rather than geographical description, and there was not even any agreement as to how many countries belonged to what was termed "the Middle East". The proposal put forward by the coordinator of the informal consultations was interesting and, on that basis, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would be willing to consider the draft resolution. The view that the geographical groupings were electoral groupings which had no bearing on the composition of the groupings as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General was not acceptable. The groupings system should be based on a single standard. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would explain its position once the draft resolution had been adopted by the General Assembly.

68th meeting

Page 1

After line 9, add:

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

Page 5

After paragraph 50, insert:

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

51. **The Chairman** thanked delegations for their cooperation, expressed his gratitude to the Secretary of the Committee and to the staff of the Secretariat and declared that the Fifth Committee had thus concluded its work for the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.